

Intelligence Preparation of the Battlefield Michael J. Roy, MAJ, MC

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Intell Prep of Battlefield

- Define battlefield environment
- Describe battlefield's effects
- Evaluate threat (enemy)
- Determine threat Courses of Action

Battlefield Environment

- Characteristics influencing ops
- Limits of Area of Intelligence
- Gaps in current intelligence

Battlefield Characteristics

- Terrain: Use a map w/overlay
- Weather:
 - wind speed/direction, precip, temp
 - assess potential to influence on ops
- Demographics: compare friendly and enemy forces

Assess Gaps in Intell

examples:

- NBC: capability, chances of use
- Location of special forces
 - SCUD/FROG units
 - Snipers, Sabotage, Psych ops
- Location of C2 element
- Outside reinforcements

Battlefield Effects

- Observation & fields of fire
- Cover & concealment
- Obstacles
- Key Terrain
- Avenues of Approach

Evaluate threat

- Number of enemy troops
- Air, artillery, and armor forces and their range and location
- Anti-aircraft and other defensive capabilities

Considerations in Evaluation of Threat

What are your enemy's :

- Doctrinal Templates?
- Tactics & Options?
- High Value Targets?

Doctrinal Templates

- Practice NBC Warfare?
- Use of Snipers or Infiltration?
- Use of Mines or Obstacles?
- Favor defense or offense?
- Mass or spread out forces?

Tactics & Options

- If you take your objectives what counteroffensives or countermeasures are expected?
- If you fail in your objectives, what will the enemy do?

High Value Targets

- Airfields
- Bridges/Choke Points
- Special units (SCUDs, NBC)
- Command & Control Points
- Ammo Stores/Supply Points

Courses of Action (COA)

- Develop 3 potential COAs:
 - The most likely
 - The highest risk to the enemy
 - The highest risk to you

Determine for each COA:

- Suitability (meets needs)
- Feasibility (sufficient troops, time, space, capabilities)
- Acceptability (relative risk)
- Consistency with doctrine

Conclusion

Careful assessment of all possible features of enemy enables you to better prepare your own course of action.